

Dear Esteemed Educators,

I was born in Los Angeles, attended public school in L.A., and earned my Ph.D. degree at UCLA. I was very fortunate to have great teachers, who helped and supported me.

I am Japanese American. My father, my grandparents, and many relatives were interned at the Gila River Relocation Camp in Arizona during World War II, due to misconceptions and prejudice.

I am writing to express concerns about the proposed addition to the History-Social Science Framework related to comfort woman history in Chapter 15 (lines 913-919).

During and after my doctoral studies, I learned that it is essential to verify all claims by looking at the original sources. I was indeed surprised when I researched comfort woman history to learn that much of the narrative currently disseminated are, in fact, exaggerated claims, one-sided opinions, or just plain false. I am extremely disturbed by this attempt by certain groups to selectively vilify Japan and Japanese.

Many nations have committed atrocities and misdeeds during wartime. Have we already forgotten the horrors that occurred during the Yugoslav Wars of the 1990s, where there were "rape camps" and "ethnic cleansing"? How many people are aware that S. Korean forces committed massacres of Vietnamese civilians, rapes, and abandoned thousands of mixed Korean-Vietnamese children during the Vietnam War? Shouldn't these historical events be mentioned?

I just wanted to voice my concerns.

Sincerely,

Arthur M.